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# TRAVEL JOURNAL



My journey to Japan



# A JOURNEY THROUGH JAPAN

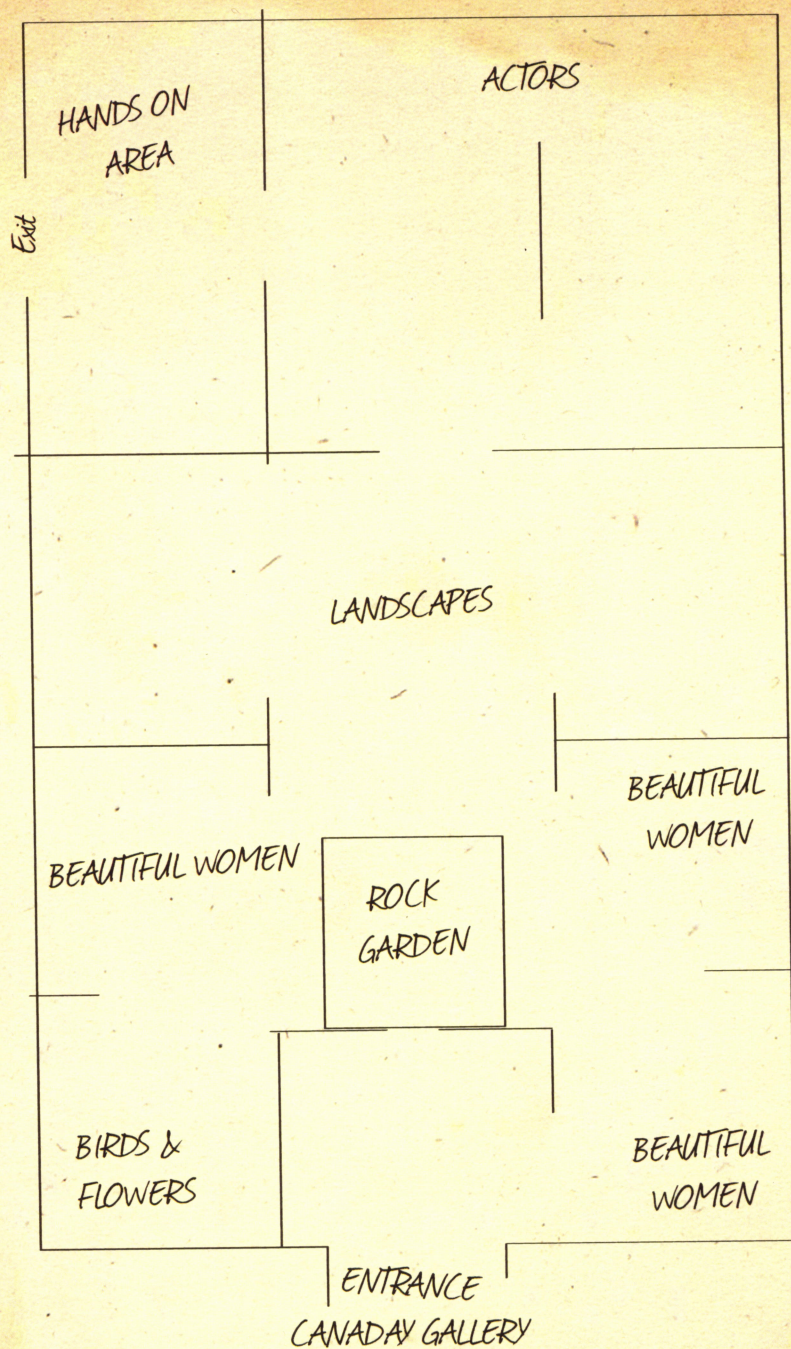
This guide is intended for children and their families to use as they explore *Fresh Impressions*. The exhibition, primarily of woodblock prints from Japan, has a lot of interesting things to see—including animals, volcanos, actors dressed up in costumes (some holding swords!), and women wearing beautiful dresses (called kimono).

As you travel through the exhibition, we want you to look closely at these works of art and imagine you are on a trip through Japan. **Who will you meet? Where would you like to go? What will you do?**

## THE BEST WAY TO GO THROUGH THE MUSEUM IS TO:

- . Look with your eyes and not your hands.
- . Walk slowly in the gallery and look carefully.
- . Stay at least an arm's length away from the work of art so you can see it all.
- . Use a pencil, not a pen, to write down ideas or make a drawing.





MAP OF EXHIBITION

# ABOUT THE EXHIBITION

*Fresh Impressions* is an exhibition of works of art by Japanese woodblock print artists from the early 20th century. The history of woodblock printing in Japan is both long and distinguished, dating as far back as the year 770. Beginning in the 1910s, Japanese artists revived this art form from its height in the 1700s and early 1800s. In their woodblock prints they combined traditional Japanese techniques and subjects with inspiration from the art of Europe and America.

## SOME WORDS TO KNOW

### **Woodblock printing:**

Printmaking technique of carving an image onto a block of wood, covering it with ink, and pressing it onto paper.

### **Kimono** [*kee-moh-noh*]:

A loose, wide-sleeved Japanese robe, commonly worn by women and often elaborately decorated; held together at the waist with a broad sash called an *obi*.



### **Kabuki** [*kah-boo-kee*]:

A type of popular Japanese stage drama in which elaborately costumed performers use stylized movements, dances, and songs to enact tragedies and comedies. Only men are Kabuki actors, performing even the female roles.

### **Kumadori** [*koo-mah-door-ee*]:

Stage make-up worn by Kabuki actors, specifically bold stripes of color on a white background. The colors and designs often have symbolic meaning relating to the character that wears it.

### **Shin hanga** [*shin hahn-gah*]:

Term meaning "new prints;" this is what artists in the early 1900s called their revival of Japanese woodblock print techniques and subjects from the 1700s and early 1800s.

### **Mie** [*mee-eh*]:

In Kabuki Theater, a dramatic pose that the actor holds-almost like a close-up in a movie-to express a significant emotional moment in the play.

NOW IT'S TIME TO START  
YOUR JOURNEY TO JAPAN!



# BEAUTIFUL WOMEN IN BEAUTIFUL CLOTHES

As you enter the exhibition, can you find any prints of Japanese women in a *kimono*?

Originally, "kimono" was the Japanese word for clothing. In more recent years, the word has been used to refer specifically to traditional Japanese robes. Kimono are often made from silk with elaborate patterns and decoration.



*Before the  
Mirror* by  
Natori Shunsen  
[Nah-tor-ee  
Shun-senn], 1928.



Look at the images and find a woman wearing a kimono who looks like someone you'd like to talk to.

If you could ask her what she is doing, what do you think she would tell you?

Describe the pattern on the kimono she is wearing.

Does the pattern remind you of anything from nature?



## TIME TO DOODLE!

Draw the kimono's pattern, or design one of your own, in the space provided.



# BIRDS & FLOWERS

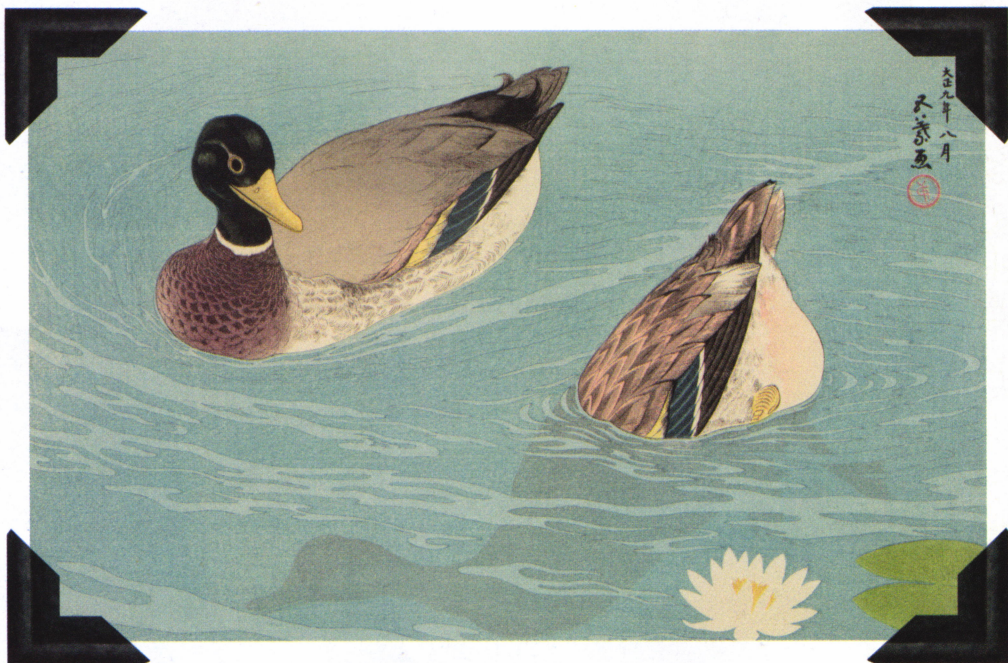
The green head and yellow bill of the mallard duck is a familiar sight to the Japanese, just like it is for us in the United States. Mallards like calm, shallow sanctuaries, but can be found in almost any body of fresh water.

Find an image of birds that you particularly like.

How many birds are in the print?

Are they in the air, on water, in a tree, or somewhere else?

What does it look like they are doing?



*Ducks* by Hashiguchi Goyō [Hah-shee-goo-chee Goy-yoh], 1921



## TIME TO MAKE A LITTLE NOISE!

If you could hear this bird, what would it sound like?



# LANDSCAPES & FAMOUS PLACES

Between the Japan Alps and Tokyo lies Mt. Fuji (Fujiyama), the most famous mountain in Japan. It has a beautiful, conical peak that is the country's tallest mountain (12,390 feet). In the summer many people climb to the top of Mt. Fuji. Even in July and August, temperatures at the mountaintop reach only around 41 to 43 degrees Fahrenheit.

Search for pictures of landscapes in the exhibition. Choose one that shows a place you would like to visit on your trip.



*Fujiyama from Okitsu* by Hiroshi Yoshida [Hee-roh-shee Yo-shee-dahl], 1928



## TIME TO USE YOUR IMAGINATION!

What would you need to pack for your visit?  
What do you think the weather will be like?  
Who do you think you might meet?



# KABUKI ACTORS

Along with costumes, songs, and dances, Kabuki [kah-boo-keel] actors use exaggerated poses called *mie* (mee-eh) to express strong emotions. These poses are often accentuated by highly energetic facial expressions and flamboyant makeup (*kumadori* [koo-mah-door-ee]) that bring out the character's personality and mood.



*Kataoka Ichizo IV  
as Benkei by Natori  
Shunsen [Nah-tor-ee  
Shun-senn], 1928*



## TIME TO DO SOME ACTING!

See if you can make your face look like the actor's. Can you pose like the actor? How does it make you feel to act like this? Try to find an actor whose facial expression is very different from the one you chose.





## WISH YOU WERE HERE!

Have you enjoyed your trip to Japan? Why don't you write a postcard home to share your experience? You can use this blank card below. On one side draw your favorite memory of your Japan journey. Was it the landscape? The actors? The birds?

You can "mail" your postcard by placing it in one of the boxes located either in the hands-on area of the exhibition or at the entrance to the Family Center on the Lower Level. The Museum will display some of the postcards it receives in the Community Gallery and on Flickr (visit [flickr.com/photos/toledomuseumofart/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/toledomuseumofart/)).

\*Unfortunately "mailed" postcards cannot be returned.

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FOR MORE FUN JAPANESE-INSPIRED ACTIVITIES,  
VISIT THE MUSEUM'S FAMILY CENTER!

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 A.M.-3 P.M.

Fridays 3:30-8 P.M.

Sundays noon-5 P.M.

For details, see [www.toledomuseum.org](http://www.toledomuseum.org)

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